GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1058
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2007
REDUCTION IN USE OF BT COTTON
Boianapalli Shri Vinod Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fact finding team of Planning Commission has advised against the use of BT cotton seeds in Vidarbha region;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether a similar caution has been raised by Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University against the use of BT cotton seed in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken to check the use of BT cotton in view of its negative impact on agriculture?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): No, Sir. The Planning Commission`s Fact Finding Team has not made a specific recommendation to reduce the use of Bt cotton in Vidarbha region. It has however, observed that the net returns under Bt cotton are higher under irrigated conditions and has recommended strict quality control on Bt cotton seeds.

(c)to(d): In view of popularity of Bt cotton in Andhra Pradesh, Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University has published the details of Bt cotton production technology, its mode of action, benefits and precautionary measures to guide the farmers for the cultivation of Bt cotton. In view of its positive impact in cotton production due to control of boll worms, the area under Bt cotton has increased from 0.29 lakh hectares in 2002-03 to 34.61 lakh hectares during 2006-07 in the country.

(e): Question does not arise.